

Atty Dkt. No.: SIER-022CON
USSN: 10/826,466

In the Claims

1-45. (Canceled)

46. (Currently Amended) A method of determining whether an agent ~~that~~ inhibits GC-Box 5 repression of TERT transcription, said method comprising:

- (a) contacting said agent with an expression system comprising a GC-Box 5 repressor binding site and a coding sequence operably linked to a TERT promoter under conditions such that in the absence of said agent transcription of said coding sequence is repressed;
- (b) determining whether transcription of said coding sequence is repressed in the presence of said agent; and
- (c) identifying said agent as an agent that inhibits GC-Box 5 repression of TERT transcription if transcription of said coding sequence is not repressed in the presence of said agent.

47. (Canceled)

48. (Original) The method according to Claim 46, wherein said contacting step occurs in a cell.

49. (Original) The method according to Claim 46, wherein said agent is a small molecule.

50-52. (Canceled)

Please add the following claims.

53. (New) The method according to Claim 48, wherein said cell does not express telomerase.

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54. (New) The method according to Claim 53, wherein said cell is an MRC5 cell.
55. (New) The method according to Claim 46, wherein said coding sequence encodes a luciferase.
56. (New) The method according to Claim 46, wherein said coding sequence encodes a secreted alkaline phosphatase (SEAP).
57. (New) The method according to Claim 46, wherein said agent is a biomolecule.
58. (New) The method according to Claim 57, wherein said biomolecule is selected from the group consisting of peptides, proteins, nucleic acids, oligonucleotides, saccharides, fatty acids, steroids, purines, pyrimidines, and derivatives or structural analogs thereof.
59. (New) The method according to Claim 46, wherein said expression system is contained in a vector.
60. (New) The method according to Claim 59, wherein said vector is a plasmid.
61. (New) The method according to Claim 59, wherein said vector is a viral vector.